



**Convention on the Elimination
of all Forms of Discrimination
Against Women**

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Ninth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 170th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 2 February 1990, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. EVATT

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (continued)

1. The CHAIRPERSON asked whether the regional groups had selected the experts who would constitute the pre-session working group.

2. Ms. DIALLO SOUMARE said that the group of African States had selected Ms. Sinegiorgis and Ms. Walla-Tchangai.

3. Ms. CORTI said that the group of Western European States and others had selected Ms. Laiou-Antoniou and Ms. Bustelo Garcia del Real.

4. Ms. OESER stressed the need to ensure continuity between the members of Working Group I and the pre-session working group.

5. The CHAIRPERSON said that once it was known who would be on the Committee at the next session, it would be possible to contact all the members, beginning with the most senior member, to determine who could be on the working group.

6. After an exchange of views, the Committee decided to postpone consideration of the composition of the pre-session working group.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (continued) (CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.10 and Add.12-21)

Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.12

7. Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.12 was adopted.

Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.13

8. Ms. BUSTELO GARCIA DEL REAL proposed that the phrase "... prejudice and customs" in the first sentence of paragraph 10 should be replaced by the phrase "... prejudices and values that assigned stereotyped roles to women ..." and that the third sentence of that paragraph should be amended to read: "The reports gave conflicting data on the progress of women, accepting stereotyped attitudes as positive". She also proposed that the first sentence of paragraph 11 should be amended to read as follows: "Concerning article 6, members asked how prostitution was regulated, what percentage of Turkish women were engaged in it and whether prostitute minors were given special legal treatment."

9. Ms. GUAN proposed that two sentences should be added at the end of paragraph 6; they would read as follows: "Members of the Committee commended the Government of Turkey for acceding to the Convention in 1985 and for submitting its report on time in 1987. In congratulating the distinguished representative for her

(Ms. Guan)

statement, they noted that the report was frank and gave a clear picture of the situation of women in Turkey."

10. Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.13 was adopted, as amended.

Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.15

11. Ms. BUSTELO GARCIA DEL REAL proposed that the second sentence of paragraph 14 should read: "There was a special office in Mexico City that dealt with the consequences of rape."

12. Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.15 was adopted, as amended.

Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.14

13. Ms. NOVIKOVA said that she would submit her comments to the Rapporteur, in writing, so that the necessary amendments could be made. They related in large measure to matters of translation.

14. Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.14 was adopted, as amended.

Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.16

15. Ms. OESER said that she had submitted to the Rapporteur the text of two amendments for insertion at the end of paragraph 3. One of them concerned the new decree whereby men and women who were responsible for caring for children and grandchildren under the age of three were entitled to retire three years early. The other concerned signs that the status of women was improving. In addition, the percentages given in paragraph 12 must be corrected; the corrections had already been given to the Rapporteur.

16. Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.16 was adopted, as amended.

Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.17

17. Ms. TALLAWY proposed amendments to paragraph 19.

18. After a brief debate in which Ms. OESER, Ms. UKEJE, Ms. CORTI, Ms. BERNARD and Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING participated, the first sentence of paragraph 19 was amended to read as follows: "It was noted that Islam gave women so many privileges but that, owing to misinterpretations, women did not enjoy those rights." In addition, the second sentence of the paragraph was deleted, as was the phrase "... by current political leaders ..." contained in the fourth sentence.

19. Ms. TALLAWY said that Egypt was considering its reservations with respect to article 9 on the subject of nationality. A further reason for its consideration was the fact that the country had approved new legislation permitting dual

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(Ms. Tallawy)

nationality, so that women's organizations would be able to use that argument to defend the cause of their children's nationality. She therefore proposed that the words "articles 2 and 9 and," in the second line of paragraph 18 be followed by "since double nationality is allowed in Egypt, the issue of reservations on article 9 should be reconsidered in the light of this development".

20. Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.17, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.18

21. Ms. PILATAXI DE ARENAS proposed that the following sentence be added at the end of paragraph 1: "Attention was drawn to the importance of activating the Convention at these times of social and economic crisis as a legal means of defending women's human rights."

22. Ms. BUSTELO GARCIA DEL REAL noted that, while paragraph 13 referred to the way in which adoption was regulated in Peru, no mention was made of the reply given by the representative of that country's Government. She proposed that a sentence be included in paragraph 24 noting that there was currently an authority in the Peruvian Administration which had to approve all adoption procedures, at both the national and international levels.

23. The CHAIRPERSON drew the Committee's attention to a proposed addition to the document under consideration which had been distributed in English only and was the result of consultations held that morning. The addition read: "The Committee noted that the report, while reflecting the difficult situation, had been prepared from a feminist perspective. It noted that resources to implement programmes were scarce and that, when the economic and political situation improved, it would be possible to follow up the recommendations and concerns of the Committee."

24. Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.18, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.19

25. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING said that a statement of appreciation should be included in recognition of the very full replies provided by the representative of the Government of Turkey.

26. The CHAIRPERSON read out the following proposed addition: "Members of the Committee commended the representative of Turkey for the great efforts which had been made to provide additional information, statistics and figures in such a short time, and noted that the replies brought about a clearer picture of women with respect to implementation of the Convention."

27. Ms. CORTI noted that it was an accepted practice to add a statement of appreciation for each report. In the case of Turkey, the statement was even more justified in view of the promptness with which all questions had been fully answered.

28. Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.19, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.10

29. The CHAIRPERSON read out the text of a proposed new paragraph 15, to be added to document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.10: "Several members expressed great concern about the views of one of the representatives of Thailand to the effect that national security was a factor relevant to women's rights and, especially, on the equilibrium between national security and the international standards on human rights."

30. After a short discussion in which Ms. SINEGIORGIS, the CHAIRPERSON, Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING and Ms. BERNARD took part, Ms. Schopp-Schilling was requested to draft a final version of the paragraph, taking into account the recommendations which had been put forward, thus concluding consideration of document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.10.

CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.21

Paragraph 23

31. Ms. OESER proposed that the second sentence of paragraph 23 should be amended to read: "The Working Group agreed that the original draft text of the recommendation on female circumcision, as well as other draft general recommendations on unpaid women workers of family enterprises, recognition of unremunerated contribution of women in the gross national product and women workers in enterprises were accepted as topics but could not be discussed by the Working Group in detail and were submitted to the Committee for further discussion."

32. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING suggested that the amendment should provide more detail.

33. Paragraph 23, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 24

34. Ms. OESER proposed that the words "referred to in the report and that the drafts be" be deleted from the first sentence of paragraph 24, in order to make it clear that the draft recommendations not completed by the Working Group should be placed on file, thus properly reflecting what had been agreed.

35. The CHAIRPERSON recalled that it had been agreed to note the titles of all draft recommendations in the report and that they were in fact mentioned in paragraph 23. She therefore proposed that the suggestion made by Ms. Oeser be

(The Chairperson)

replaced by the words "all the draft recommendations not completed by the Working Group, and the drafts be referred to by title".

36. It was so decided.

37. Ms. SINEGIORGIS proposed that the last two sentences of paragraph 24 should be deleted, given that the text preceding them was sufficiently clear. In reality, they only repeated what had already been said.

38. The CHAIRPERSON said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the last two sentences of paragraph 24 should be deleted.

39. It was so decided.

Paragraph 14

40. Ms. BERNARD proposed that the word "amendments" should be replaced by "additions" in paragraph 14 of the document under consideration.

41. Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.21, as amended, was adopted, subject to approval of the new final text of paragraph 24, to be drafted by Ms. Schopp-Schilling and Ms. Oeser.

The meeting was suspended from 4.50 p.m. to 5.10 p.m.

CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.20

42. Ms. UKEJE (Rapporteur) read out a paragraph which, as agreed, should be added at the end of the document under consideration:

"27. The very comprehensive report of Canada indicates its skills in fulfilling the reporting obligations, and it was suggested that Canada consider, in the context of its development assistance programme, helping developing countries in their efforts to implement the Convention."

43. Document CEDAW/C/L.7/Add.20, as orally amended, was adopted.

44. The report of the Committee was adopted as a whole.

45. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRPERSON declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.